GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1000
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN UTTARANCHAL
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of growing menace of Naxalites at important tourist centres thereby scanning the tourists away;

(b) if so, whether the Government have envisaged any plan to make the area free from outlawed groups to promote tourism and create employment opportunities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a),(b)and (c): No such incident has either been reported by the tourist or by the Indiatourism Offices in India about the menace of Naxaliteis at important tourist centres. Hence the question of scaring the tourists away at the important tourist centres does not arise. The Governments of Kerala, J&K, Rajasthan, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have set up Tourist Police Force for the safety of tourists at tourist destinations. Government of Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chandigarh are in the process of setting up of Tourism Police Force. Some of the States/UTs e.g. Mizoram, Daman & Diu, Assam, Sikkim, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep have not felt the necessity of a separate Tourist Police Force and have instructed the regular police force to look into safety and security of the tourists. Tourism as an industry has a high multiplier impact on employment creation in the hospitality sector.